(b) whether Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) offers the Video Conferencing facilities for Educational Institutions at a concessional license fee; and

(c) if so, the names of Educational Institutions using Video Conferencing facility in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) No license has been issued for Video Conferencing Service so far. However, Letter of Intent for the service has been issued to one company which is likely to be converted into a license shortly.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Lending of Defence land to ABCL for commercial purpose

*297. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Defence land was lent to M/s. Amitabh Bachchan Corporation Ltd. for commercial purpose, if so, the conditions imposed in the matter;

(b) whether the Defence Ministry lends its land at same spot or elsewhere in the country on similar conditions to political parties;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether any rent has been charged from ABCL for the use of this land, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) The Headquarter Training Command, IAF, Bangalore had made available its Sports Ground to M/s Amitabh Bachchan Corporation Ltd. (ABCL) for conducting certain sub-events which were a part of the Miss World Pageant-1996. This was subject to advance payment of rentals as assessed by the Defence Estate Officer. The ABCL was responsible for all logistical management and proper conduct of the event.

As per general Defence Land Policy, Defence land in the occupation of the Armed Forces shall not be used for any purpose other than Defence purpose without the sanction of the Government of India in the Ministry of Defence. Every request for such temporary occupation and use of Defence land is considered and decided by the Government on the basis of its availability and on payment of appropriate charged depending on the purpose.

A licence fee of Rs. 1,97,366/-has been charged from M/s ABCL.

Target for opening post offices in Maharashtra

*298. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the States and Union Territories which form parts of the Maharashtra Postal Circle;

(b) whether any targets were fixed for opening post offices in this circle during the 8th Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details there of State and Union Territory-wise;

(d) to what extent these targets have been achieved so far; and

(e) by when the entire targets are likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Maharashtra Postal Circle comprises States of Maharashtra and Goa. No Union Territory forms part of this Postal Circle.

(b) and (c) The State-wise details of targets for Maharashtra and Goa separately, for the 8th Five Year Plan are given below:—

Name of the State	Targets	
	Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOs)	Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOs)
1. Maharashtra	154	48
2. Goa	9	3
Total	163	51